

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 1 PRESS ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

1. JIM ANDERSON OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL NOTED THAT
"AN ADMINISTRATION REPORT ON FIRST U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC
ARMS TREATY SAID TUESDAY RUSSIANS PUSHED AGREEMENT TO
LIMIT BUT NEVER BROKE IT." STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ALSO
SAID U.S. CHALLENGED SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH SALT ONE
EIGHT TIMES IN ORIGINAL FIVE YEAR PERIOD AND EACH TIME,
RUSSIANS EITHER STOPPED QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITY OR PROVED
CHARGE WAS BASELESS, ANDERSON ADDED. REPORT, HE CON-
TINUED, SAID SOVIETS IN TURN QUESTIONED FIVE U.S. ACTIONS
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AND THAT NONE WAS FOUND TO BE VIOLATION OF TREATY. ANDER-
SON SAID "18-PAGE REPORT ON SALT ONE MARKED AN APPARENT
ATTEMPT TO BUILD CONFIDENCE IN U.S. ABILITY TO MONITOR
MUCH MORE COMPLICATED SALT TWO AGREEMENT NOW BEING NEGO-
TIATED. SALT TWO FACES STIFF SCRUTINY FROM SENATORS WHO
CLAIM RUSSIANS BUILT UP THEIR NUCLEAR WARFARE CAPABILITIES
UNDER CAMOUFLAGE OF SALT ONE." ANDERSON POINTED OUT

REPORT CONFIRMS REPORTS THAT USSR HAS DEVELOPED SPACE SATELLITE-KILLER SYSTEM BUT SAYS "SINCE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH SYSTEMS IS NOT PROHIBITED, THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT CALL INTO QUESTION SOVIET COMPLIANCE."

2. NEW YORK TIMES SAID STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT "IS FIRST DETAILED RESPONSE BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO ALLEGATIONS THAT SOVIET UNION HAS FAILED TO LIVE UP PRECISELY TO TERMS OF AGREEMENTS. ANOTHER REPORT LAST WEEK ARGUED THAT U.S. COULD ADEQUATE POLICE MORE COMPREHENSIVE ARMS AGREEMENT BEING CONSIDERED BY NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA. BOTH DOCUMENTS WERE DESIGNED BY ADMINISTRATION TO LAY POLITICAL GROUNDWORK ON CAPITOL HILL FOR PROPOSED NEW ACCORD AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO DEFUSE QUESTION OF WHETHER MOSCOW COULD BE TRUSTED TO ABIDE BY ARMS AGREEMENTS."

3. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID PUBLICATION OF STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT "WAS HAILED BY SENATE CHAMPIONS OF CURRENT U.S.-SOVIET NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS AS EVIDENCE THAT RECURRING CHARGES OF 'SOVIET CHEATING' ON 1972 ACCORD ARE 'ILL-FOUNDED.' BUT REPORT ALSO COINCIDED WITH AN ILLUSTRATION THAT THIS CONTINUING CONTROVERSY WILL NOT SOON DISAPPEAR. A NEW CHARGE APPEARED YESTERDAY, AND WAS PROMPTLY DENIED, THAT SOVIET UNION IS PRESENTLY CHEATING ON LIMITATIONS FOR INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE FIRING SUBMARINES UNDER 1972 SALT ACCORD. THIS PACT UNCLASSIFIED

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TECHNICALLY EXPIRED LAST OCT. 3 BUT IS BEING CONTINUED UNTIL NEW ONE IS NEGOTIATED." MARDER SAID CHARGES OF SOVIET CHEATING "HAVE BEEN PITCHED INTO CURRENT SALT NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH SOVIET UNION NOW CHARGES ARE 'AT STANDSTILL' BECAUSE OF 'CURRENT ANTI-SOVIET BALLYHOO' IN CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE IN U.S. HE QUOTED SENATOR SPARKMAN AS SAYING NEW REPORT "SHOULD HELP RESOLVE MANY ILL-FOUNDED CHARGES OF CHEATING WHICH WERE UNDERMINING SEARCH FOR GOOD SALT TWO AGREEMENT." SENATORS CULVER AND HART, SUPPORTERS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS, SAID REPORT SHOULD REINFORCE CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO ENFORCE NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL. MARDER REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, IN BACKGROUND MEETING WITH REPORTERS, SAID USSR WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE THAT REPORT WAS BEING RELEASED. ONE U.S. OFFICIAL, HE REPORTED, SAID IT SHOWS THAT "SOVIETS CERTAINLY OPERATE AT LIMITS OF AGREEMENT." NEITHER SIDE, HOWEVER, HAS EVER CHARGED WITH VIOLATION, MARDER SAID.

4. WASHINGTON STAR, IN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SOVIET-CUBAN ACTIVITY IN HORN OF AFRICA, DECLARED "RUSSIAN CUBAN ADVENTURE INVITES AN OFFICIAL U.S. RESPONSE. SINCE CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT CALL FOR DIRECT MILITARY COUNTER-EFFORT

(NO GI'S TO SOMALIA), MOSCOW LEAVES WASHINGTON WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING IN OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO KREMLIN LIKE SALT." STAR SAID "MOSCOW SHOULD NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED IN AFRICA ON ASSUMPTION THERE WILL BE NO EFFECT ON ITS HOPES FOR FURTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT AND FOR INCREASING ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH U.S."

5. JAMES RESTON OF NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTING FROM BELGRADE, SAID U.S. DELEGATION HAS GOT TWO THINGS IT WANTED IN BELGRADE CONFERENCE: "FIRST, REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROMISES OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY SOVIET UNION, AND SECOND, AN AGREEMENT TO REVIEW RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAIN IN 1980." RESTON SAID DURING TWO HOUR MEETING WITH TITO, YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT AGREED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS USEFUL, BUT HE INSISTED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS IF MADE MAJOR TEST OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NUCLEAR NATIONS.

6. LAURENCE MCQUILLAN OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED WEDNESDAY THAT BRZEZINSKI TOLD REPORTERS USSR MUST MAKE CONCESSION IF SALT NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO PROGRESS. BRZEZINSKI WARNED THAT ANY INCREASE IN TENSION CAUSED BY SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA COULD BLOCK APPROVAL OF SALT TREATY. HE SAID "WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS" IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS AND USSR MUST MAKE "AN ACT OF POLITICAL WILL" AND AGREE TO CONCESSIONS. HE MENTIONED TOTAL NUMBER OF WEAPONS AS ONE STALLING POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE, MCQUILLAN SAID, NOTING BRZEZINSKI'S COMMENTS CAME AS CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS OF QUICK SALT TWO TREATY CLAIMED GOVERNMENT REPORT SHOWS SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CHEATING ON SALT ONE. BRZEZINSKI SAID ADMINISTRATION HOPES FOR NEW AGREEMENT THIS YEAR, BUT HE ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE IMPACT OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY REGARDING ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF ETHIOPIA IN BORDER DISPUTE WITH SOMALIA. VANCE

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